

PATENT
Attorney Docket No. 216406

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Johal et al.

Application No. 10/089,496

Filed: March 28, 2002

For: ROOT RETARDANT

Art Unit: Unassigned

Examiner: Unassigned

*Pre Amdt
E/A*

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Prior to the examination of the above-identified patent application, please enter the following amendments and consider the following remarks.

AMENDMENTS

IN THE CLAIMS

14. (New) A method of inhibiting the preemergent growth of a plant in a medium that can support the growth thereof, comprising:

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introducing into said medium a preemergent growth inhibiting amount of a growth inhibitor, said growth inhibitor comprising a lactic-acid-containing steep liquor to which additional lactic acid has been added, said steep liquor having preemergent growth inhibiting activity and said additional lactic acid having been added in an amount effective to enhance the preemergent growth inhibiting activity of said steep liquor.

15. (New) A method according to claim 14, said steep liquor being corn steep liquor.